



lasted only a few days, but it was a lot of fun while it lasted."

The teacher volunteered, "Let me read to you the account of a typical trappers' rendezvous as described by Grace Raymond Hebard.

'Here would come gaily attired gentlemen from the mountains of the south, with a dash of the Mexican about them, their bridles heavy with silver, their hat brims rakishly pinned up with gold nuggets, and with Kit Carson or Dick Wooton in the lead.

'In strong contrast would appear Jim Bridger and his band, careless of personal appearance, despising foppery, burnt and seamed by the sun and wind of the western desert, powdered with fine white alkali dust, fully conscious that clothes mean nothing, and that man to man they could measure up with the best of the mountain men.

'At this gathering you would find excitable Frenchmen looking for guidance to Provot, the two Sublettes, and Fontenelle; the thoroughbred American, Kentuckian in type, with his long, heavy rifle, his six feet of bone and muscle, and his keen, determined, alert vigilance; the canny Scot, typified by Robert Campbell, who won both health and fortune in the mountains; the jolly Irishman, best represented by Fitzpatrick, the man with the broken hand who knew more about the mountains than any other man except possibly

dezvous was held at Ogden during the winter of 1825-1826."

"I would like to hear about that rendezvous," Barbara suggested.

"I shall describe it, Barbara. During the spring and summer of 1825, Ashley's men were trapping on Bear, Green, and Salt rivers. James Bridger and 30 others went as far north as the Yellowstone Park country. When fall came they gathered in Cache Valley and cached their furs. But before winter set in, they moved to the Salt Lake Valley and established a typical trappers' winter rendezvous at the mouth of the Weber River, near the present site of Ogden City.

"This winter rendezvous was the greatest gathering of its kind known to the mountaineers. Their camp was in reality a pioneer village. It contained nearly 700 persons, including the squaws which some of the trappers had married, and their children. Toward midwinter 2,500 Snake Indians invited themselves to the rendezvous, bringing with them their livestock and other property. Thus Ogden had a temporary

TRADING POST is a type of market place where people bring products to sell or to exchange for other goods. In the United States, many posts serve Navajo Indians who live on a large reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. At these posts, the Indians sell goods and buy food, clothing, and farm equipment.

In ancient times, trading posts operated in the Near East. Later, Europeans set up trading posts as they explored various parts of the world. At first, before the development of money, traders usually *bartered* with one another—that is, they exchanged items for other items.

The first trading posts in North America were established during the late 1400's in what is now Newfoundland, Canada. By the mid-1800's, trading posts had been set up throughout North America. Indians traded



Detail of an engraving (1876); Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg, Canada
Trading Posts of the Mid-1800's, such as the one shown above, served Indians and whites who wanted to exchange goods.

furs and hides to whites for such items as cloth, glass beads, guns, gun powder, liquor, and metal goods.

Private companies and individuals set up many trading posts. The Hudson's Bay Company opened posts along Hudson Bay in Canada after 1670 (see HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY). In 1796, the U.S. government created a system of government trading posts, hoping to keep private traders from cheating the Indians. The government abolished these posts in 1822 because private traders opposed them. Many white traders later opened posts on Indian reservations and charged unfair prices, but the Indians there had nowhere else to buy goods.

Many settlements that grew up around trading posts developed into large U.S. and Canadian cities. These communities included Chicago; Detroit; Kansas City, Mo.; Montreal; and Quebec.